

# NUKEWATCH

# PATHFINDER

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News & Information on Nuclear Weapons, Power, Waste & Nonviolent Resistance

## Nukewatch Staffer & Volunteer Get Prison & Fine for Anti-Torture Action



Photo by John LaForge

**Jane Hosking, Anathoth Community Farm member and Nukewatch volunteer, has been sentenced to 6 months in federal prison for taking a stand against U.S. torture.**

Early in February, the week after a military jury in Colorado decided not to jail a U.S. Army interrogator who had been found guilty of negligent homicide in the death of an Iraqi prisoner,\* a U.S. Magistrate in Columbus, Georgia sentenced dozens of human rights activists to prison, including Nukewatch staffer John LaForge and volunteer Jane Hosking. (See: Acting Against Torture, p.2)

Jane and John were sentenced by Magistrate Mallon Faircloth to the maximum penalty of 6 months and were both ordered to pay a \$1000 fine.

They were among a group of 37 human rights

activists who were convicted of trespassing at Fort Benning, home to the U.S. Army's notorious School of the Americas (SOA), recently renamed the "Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation." Critics have dubbed WHISC the "School of Assassins."

The 37 defendants, ranging in age from 19 to 81, were charged after peacefully entering the Army base Nov. 20 during a protest that involved a record 19,000 people from around the world. Federal trespass is a petty misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of 6 months in prison. Five others were also sentenced to the max. (See: Prison Sentences, p.2)

The U.S. Army-run SOA trains soldiers and police forces from Latin America. Graduates of the SOA have gone on to commit the Western hemisphere's worst human rights atrocities of the last 50 years. As Naomi Klein reported in *The Nation*, SOA graduates: assassinated Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador; killed six Jesuit Priests, their housekeeper and her daughter in El Salvador; undertook the organized theft of babies from Argentina's

"disappeared" prisoners; and carried out the massacre of 900 civilians at El Mozote in El Salvador.

In the 1990s, nine of the SOA's training manuals — which included barbaric and illegal interrogation methods — were unearthed by activists with "SOA Watch." The manuals proved the school was teaching torture.

According to investigations begun after the April 2004 disclosure of the Abu Ghraib prison scandal in Iraq, these same torture techniques "migrated" to military prisons in Afghanistan, Guantánamo Bay, Iraq and as many as 20 secret prisons around the world run by the CIA.

Sentences for Jane and John will likely begin April 11, 2006. As we go to press their designation was pending. Your gift to Nukewatch will help support Jane and John.

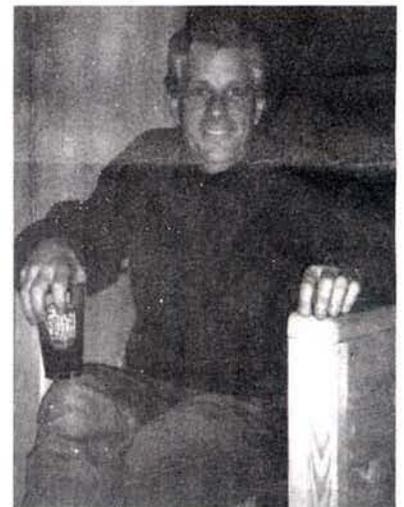


Photo by Jeff Peterson

**Sentenced to 6 months, Nukewatch staffer John LaForge is awaiting assignment to a federal prison for his trespass against torture at SOA.**

### \*Abusive G.I.'s Not Pursued, Survey Finds

"BAGHDAD, Iraq, Feb. 22 (AP) — The longest sentence for any member of the American military linked to a torture-related death of a detainee in Iraq or Afghanistan has been five months, a human rights group reported Wednesday.

"In only 12 of 34 cases has anyone been punished for the confirmed or suspected killings, said the group Human Rights First, which is based in New York and Washington. ...

"The interrogator, Chief Warrant Officer Lewis E. Welshofer, Jr., originally charged with murder [of Iraqi General Abed Hamed Mowhoush in 2003], was convicted of negligent homicide in a military trial last month and was reprimanded, without jail time. ...

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# U.S. Reactors Tainting Drinking Water with Tritium

## Braidwood

BRACEVILLE, Illinois — After higher than normal tritium levels were found in groundwater near the Braidwood nuclear reactor, 60 miles southwest of Chicago, Exelon Corporation, owner of the reactors, have bought out one property owner and is presently negotiating financial settlements with 14 other neighbors. The high levels of radiation are due in part to a valve break that occurred in 1998 when three million gallons of tritium-contaminated water leaked beneath the reactor. Four leaks have occurred at Braidwood between 1996 and 2003.

Tritium, the radioactive form of hydrogen, is present in two off-site wells, a nearby pond and five on-site wells.

The radiation contaminating the wells was originally meant to drain into the Kankakee River where the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Exelon expected it to be diluted.

One well at Braidwood showed tritium levels more than 11 times higher than the NRC limit for groundwater. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency discovered the contamination and cited Exelon for two violations of the state's groundwater standards and gave the company until Feb. 3 to file a report about the contamination.

An Exelon statement said, "A person drinking two liters of water a day at [the] upper limit would receive an annual radiation exposure roughly equal to that from an airplane flight across the country — about four millirem. The average American receives 300 millirem of background exposure annually from natural and man-made sources."

The company's comparison is deliberately misleading: Internal radiation exposures are far more dangerous in effect than external exposures. A better analogy is the difference between sitting next to a warm fire and popping one of its hot coals into your mouth.

Exelon announced that it is offering free well tests to 28 property owners who live next door. — *Guardian Newspapers*, Jan. 25; & *Morris Daily Herald*, Feb. 21, 2006

## Dresden

A tritium leak that began in Dec. 2004 at Dresden, east of Morris, Ill., may still be on-going. Levels of tritium 25 times the allowable drinking water limits set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), were found in a test well near the center of Dresden property, where up to 650,000 gallons of contaminated water leaked from underground pipes. Records show 500,000 picocuries per liter. The EPA allows 20,000 picocuries of tritium per liter. The full extent of the groundwater contamination is unknown.

Test wells 10 to 20 feet away from the center indicate tritium levels dropping to 20,000 picocuries per liter or less. At the boundaries of the site, Exelon claimed it found no tritium.

Exelon waited years before going public with the information regarding tritium leaks that started in 1998 and the subsequent spread of the contaminant's plume.

— *Guardian Newspapers*, Jan. 25; *Morris Daily Herald*, Feb. 21; *Rock River Times*, Feb. 22-28, 2006

## Byron

Inside concrete vaults set into the ground where several valves are located, employees at Byron found standing water with tritium levels four times above the EPA limit. Workers are taking environmental samples and engineers are working to determine if tritium has leaked outside the vaults. NRC-approved amounts of tritium-tainted water are normally allowed to drain into the Rock River. — *WBBM News Radio*, Chicago; & *(Chicago) Herald News*, Feb. 16, 2005



## Palo Verde

Arizona Public Service Co. (APS), owner of Palo Verde's three reactors, notified the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality March 4, that a tritium leak may impact the groundwater. A hole 13-feet deep was dug near reactor Unit 3 to obtain samples of water in a pipe vault. The vault pipe comes from a network of underground pipes beneath the reactor — from whence the leak originates. APS assures the public there is no groundwater contamination although levels in samples are more than three times the NRC-approved limit. Information is unavailable about the extent of area contamination.

Aquifers that supply Phoenix with drinking water 50 miles to the east lie just 70-200 feet below the Palo Verde reactors.

Also at Palo Verde, Unit 1 shut down Jan. 17 when an emergency cooling line experienced an "acoustic impact." Reactor operation noise caused vibrations severe enough to rattle the cooling system. The problem has persisted for years, forcing operators to run the reactor at one-third power due to the whistling and rattling. The situation grew worse after APS installed two new 800-ton steam generators and low-pressure turbines at a cost of \$200 million.

The company may try adding shock absorbers, installing weights or heating the cooling line to reduce the hum and vibration.

Palo Verde opened in 1986 with a generating capacity of 1,250-megawatt output. APS hoped to boost or "uprate" by 3 percent with its multi-million dollar upgrade. The reactors began experiencing problems that have resulted in more than a dozen shutdowns in just the past two years.

— *The Arizona Republic*, Jan. 17 & March 4, 2006

## Connecticut Yankee

HADDAM, Conn. — The NRC learned in October 2005 that the "decommissioned" Connecticut Yankee nuclear site was leaking radioactive water from its waste fuel cooling pool that had contained as many as 1,000 fuel rods. The fuel has since been moved to on-site dry cask storage. NRC inspectors took samples of the cooling water and concrete to determine the extent of the leak. No one knows when the leak began but a few gallons of contaminated water per day breached a 6-foot-thick concrete wall. The water contains cesium, cobalt, strontium and tritium. An NRC spokeswoman repeated the industry's mantra, "No danger to the public," when talking about the contamination.

— *Hartford Courant*, Nov. 4 & 8, 2005

## Indian Point

BUCHANAN, New York — The NRC announced that a leak at Indian Point Unit 2 stopped more than four months after it was first discovered on August 22. Local officials were not notified for three weeks. The leak sprang from the 400,000-gallon waste fuel cooling pool. At worst, the leak amounted to two liters per day. Entergy Nuclear Northeast drilled wells to determine the extent of the contamination. Six on-site wells contained contaminated water, with one registering seven times the EPA's approved threshold for drinking water. Radioactive water is known to have moved into a storm sewer and from there into the Hudson River. The source of the leak is still unidentified — *Journal News*, January 7, 2006; *Times Herald-Record*, December 21, 2005

The U.S. has 103 aging, operating reactors, all of which release planned radiation and any number of which may be leaking unknown amounts of radioactive water. That they are happening simultaneously should be a blaring warning that the industry must stop before it stops us. Even after shutting down, as in the case of Connecticut Yankee, they pose a deadly threat.

## What is tritium?

The radioactive form of hydrogen, tritium (H3), is a gas produced in reactors as a waste product. While some occurs naturally, above ground nuclear testing increased background levels of tritium by 5 times. Nuclear installations are by far the greatest source of tritium in the environment. A reactor the size of Byron produces 2 grams per year or 20,000 curies of tritium. Surface water contains from 10 to 30 picocuries per liter and the EPA allows 20,000 picocuries per liter in your drinking water. Tritium contaminates water for at least 120 years.

If ingested tritium is extremely dangerous as it is ionizing radiation and behaves like regular water. It disperses throughout the body in two hours. During its time in the body, small amounts become incorporated into organic molecules where a large number of cells can be irradiated. Tritium is a beta emitter and has a half-life of 12.5 years. There are three potential health effects from the ingestion of tritium: cancer; genetic effects; and damage to fetuses as it crosses the placenta. — *Source: Nuclear Wastelands*, Makhijani, et al, Eds., MIT Press, 2000, p. 97; U.S. Government, Savannah River Site webpage: [srs.gov/general/news/newpub-rel/factsheets/het.pdf](http://srs.gov/general/news/newpub-rel/factsheets/het.pdf)

## The Millstone Around Katie's Neck

By Paul Vos Benkowski

WATERFORD, Conn. — Just five and a half miles northwest of the Millstone nuclear power site lies a lush green 20-acre pasture where a seven-year-old goat named Katie, owned by Allen Moran, grazed and bore many kids. Unbeknownst to Moran or his neighbors was the fact that high levels of strontium-90 were detected in Katie's milk by the Connecticut State Department of Environmental Protection as far back as 2001. Katie has since been adopted by the Connecticut Coalition Against Millstone (CCAM) and Moran has sold his 20-acre pasture to a local developer who hopes to build 14 houses. Yet the source of the dangerously high levels of strontium-90 found in Katie's milk, culpability for the radiation, and the subterfuge behind the contamination are causing a stir.

Millstone consists of three reactors, two of which are operational and expecting renewal licenses to operate through 2035 and 2045 despite the reactors' suspect history. During its 35-year operation, Millstone earned the disreputable title of the highest emitter of radioactive releases of all reactors in the U.S. In 1988 Millstone's operator, Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, pleaded guilty to the felony charge of falsifying environmental records. Millstone whistleblower Jim Plumb testified that operators simply "turned off" environmental monitors while releasing deadly chemicals in violation of the company's Clean Water Act permit.

As recently as Dec. 6, 2005, trace amounts of airborne radiation were emitted from packing around a leaky valve inside the Millstone Unit 3 reactor, leading to a shutdown. The amount was "not alarming," said Paul Krohn, branch chief at Millstone, "but above background level normally found in the air." Workers wore anti-contamination suits, Air-Pacs to help them breathe, and dosimeters to enter the reactor to discern which of the 14 valves had leaked.

The CCAM, headed by Nancy Burton, has been a vigilant watchdog, petitioning local and state officials, urging the NRC to come clean with its findings, adopting Katie the goat and enlisting the help of Dr. Ernest Sternglass, Professor Emeritus of Radiology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. After reviewing data compiled by the U.S. EPA and Dominion Nuclear regarding its sampling and analysis of the levels of strontium-90 found in the goat's milk, Sternglass drew frightening conclusions. The data included concentrations of 55.5 pico curies of strontium-90 in Katie's milk, compared to EPA data that shows strontium-90 levels in milk 10 to 100 times smaller than those measured near the Millstone site. Dr. Sternglass goes on to report that this is an extremely high level of radiation, more than twice the amount in Connecticut milk during the height of nuclear weapons testing in 1963. His conclusion that Millstone is

the source of the contamination appears to be resolute, but the folks at Dominion Nuclear and the NRC have concluded otherwise, using their own unsound scientific theory.

Strontium-90 is a radioactive isotope routinely released to the air and water by Millstone — routinely enough for Dominion Nuclear to identify the reactor site as a radiation "hot zone." Despite this declaration, the NRC published in its Final Environmental Impact Statement in July 2005 that "Dominion believes that goats sometimes nibble the roots of the pasture grass. Along with the grass roots the goats may also ingest some soil that contains strontium-90 left in the environment from atmospheric nuclear testing dating back to the early 1960s. The NRC inspected the monitoring programs at Millstone and came to the same conclusion." Case closed.

Allen Moran takes issue with the theory. "Goats are tidy grazers," he stated. "That is why they are prized because they do not uproot the grass, unlike cows, horses and sheep. They do not overgraze." He also added that no representatives from Millstone or the NRC ever observed his goats nibbling the roots.

Strontium-90 is one of the most toxic by-products of nuclear fission because it mimics calcium and is readily absorbed in teeth and bones. Once lodged in human tissue, it acts like a constantly running tiny X-ray machine, sending off high energy radiation which destabilizes cellular structure, ultimately leading to bone cancer, leukemia and diseases of the immune system. Young children are particularly vulnerable to its effects.

Once released into the atmosphere, strontium-90 settles downwind. It is important to know that Millstone discontinued

sampling for strontium-90 in 1997 and has since relied upon environmental sampling of goat's milk to measure its strontium-90 releases.

Which brings us back to a seven-year-old goat named Katie and the pasture land just five-and-a-half miles from Millstone. The land readily soaks up the tasteless, odorless radioisotope that cannot be seen, but can be inhaled or ingested by eating contaminated food grown in such a "hot spot." Also, the trees that surround the site absorb strontium-90 in their roots, concentrate it in their trunk and release it in the leaves that fall back to the land. The contamination continues season after season. Whether the site is an idyllic pasture for grazing goats or is turned into a 14-lot residential subdivision, Millstone will still be there with its dirty reactor operations, and the NRC will be there to disregard public safety season after season.

— *Paul Vos Benkowski is on the Nukewatch staff.*



# Acting Against Torture

By John LaForge

Nukewatchers have practiced nonviolent civil resistance against nuclear weapons and war for 26 years. Hundreds of us have gone to jail and prison to raise awareness of the war system or official wrongdoing, and to withdraw our cooperation with crimes of state.

Nonviolent actions at missile silos saw dozens of resisters go to jail in the '80s and '90s; hundreds of peaceful direct actions at the Navy's first-strike ELF transmitter resulted in more than nine collective years of jail and prison.

Today, photographic proof of the outrages committed by U.S. troops against prisoners, make anyone who's known a jail cell shudder. Evidence of the humiliation, abuse, torture and even murder of hooded, shackled, helpless captives has staggered us all — not just "the Arab world."

As many as 108 detainees have died in U.S. custody and half of these suspected killings have never been investigated. Over 300 incidents of abuse were documented by just one of 12, in-house, military investigations into Abu Ghraib. Some 100 detainees have been hidden from the Red Cross. Still, no high-level appointee has been indicted or tried, much less punished for creating the policies that led to these crimes of state.

Amnesty International USA, Human Rights Watch, the Center for Constitutional Rights, the ACLU, the American Bar Association and Human Rights First have joined in calling for a special prosecutor. But that decision would be made by Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, a man so tarnished by his advocacy of vicious interrogation that Molly Ivins calls him "torture boy." Demands that the Guantánamo prison be closed have come from the UN Human Rights Commission, Jimmy Carter and even the *New York Times*.

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Only an intolerable injustice can justify civil disobedience." Torture is nothing if not an intolerable injustice. It's a medieval atrocity.

Legal prohibitions against it are unequivocal and absolute. Torture's condemnation is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Conventions, the UN Convention Against Torture, the U.S. War Crimes Act of 1996, the Anti-Torture Act of 1996, the U.S. Army Field Manual and the recently-adopted McCain anti-torture amendment.

Since news of Abu Ghraib broke in April 2004, I've collected a box full of articles, five dozen news accounts, six official reports, and I've written wordy, indignant commentaries on the subject. All the while I knew none of the research amounted to a hill of beans if I didn't act.

I went into the SOA line-crossing Nov. 20 knowing the likely consequences. At arraignment the prosecutor read a

list of prior convictions hoping to impress the U.S. Magistrate. Hearing my record, my comical stand-by attorney, Dan Gregor of Salt Lake City, leaned over and whispered, "But you look so innocent."

When considered in the context of the U.S. prison population of 2.2 million, with over 60 percent incarcerated for nonviolent offenses, our SOA sentences appear sadly unremarkable. Prison terms for peaceful protest at SOA are only outrageous in the context of the paltry punishments given to a few convicted torturers and the fact that no one of "command responsibility" has been held to account.

Yes, we must stand against the storm of lies that would justify torture. Still, as Dan Berrigan reminds us our jail-going is not a search for justice, but a mitigating of the harm being done to people there.

## I object

Prior to sentencing before Magistrate Mallon, I objected to the employment of an Army Captain as the prosecutor. I argued that since I was a civilian in a civilian courtroom, charged with violating civil law, I found it improper for the prosecution to be led by the military.

Captain Rebecca K. Connally explained that she'd been duly appointed a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney. The Magistrate overruled my objection without hearing the basis for it.

If I'd been quick enough, I would have said the use of an active duty military officer to prosecute a civilian violates one's right to due process because: 1) The protest took place on the base where Captain Connally is employed; she cannot avoid an obvious conflict of interest; 2) The use of military personnel in anti-war cases is prejudicial toward the defendant, as evidenced by Magistrate Faircloth's repeated use of her military rank when referring to Captain Connally; and 3) Civilians have a right to be protected under the Posse Comitatus Law of 1878 which forbids the use of the military for civilian law enforcement.

## What I said to the court:

"... We are confronted with government violations of its own laws against torture. The UN Convention Against Torture, the Geneva Conventions and the U.S. Anti-Torture Act, prohibit and provide severe punishment for violations of the laws of war, including torture and humiliating or degrading treatment by a U.S. national, including members of the armed forces. These laws are all being flagrantly violated by U.S. forces.

"Orders allowing torture in Afghanistan, Guantánamo Bay, Iraq and dozens of other countries come from high administration authorities.

"On January 25, 2002, while he was White House Counsel, Alberto Gonzales wrote to the President that the so-called war on terrorism 'in my judgment renders obsolete Geneva's strict limitations on questioning of enemy prisoners.' The same memo suggested that denying prisoners Geneva protections, 'substantially reduces the threat of domestic criminal prosecution under the War Crimes Act.'

"Then on Aug. 1, 2002, Assistant Attorney General Jay Bybee wrote to the President that torturing prisoners overseas 'may be justified,' and that international laws against torture 'may be unconstitutional if applied to interrogations.'

"Bybee even said that the legal doctrine of 'necessity ... could provide justification that would eliminate any criminal liability.'

"How ironic it is, that this court has formally excluded the defense of necessity in the cases here today — cases involving defendants who have neither threatened nor injured anyone in our attempt to draw attention to the

## McCain Torture Bill a Bust

By Jennifer Harbury

Reprinted from *The Nation*, letters, Jan. 30, 2006

Despite the fanfare, the McCain bill banning cruel and degrading treatment is less a shot in the arm than a shot through the head. The bottom line? All forms of abuse are now illegal, but no torturers will go to prison. For survivors of U.S.-sponsored torture in Latin America, this "wink and a nod" approach gives a chilling sense of déjà vu.

(Torture, of course, is prohibited by our Constitution and treaties. Under 18 USC 2340, torture abroad is a felony. The statute's definition includes virtually all the techniques now used on detainees. War crimes trials are already required. The Administration has tried to sidestep this by insisting that waterboarding and other techniques are "merely" cruel and degrading but not torture. That is for the courts to decide. However, it is good that this second, lesser category is now also banned.)



Reprinted from the Minneapolis StarTribune

government's commission of ghastly international crimes that White House lawyers claim can be excused under the doctrine of necessity. ..."

## What torture is alleged?

In Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantánamo and elsewhere, prisoners in U.S. custody have been hooded for long periods, chained for days to ceilings, floors, beds and railings, deprived of sleep, forced to stand or squat for hours, stressed with threats against family members, subjected to near drowning by "waterboarding," paraded and humiliated while naked, terrorized by un-muzzled police dogs, made to eat off the floor and temporarily paralyzed by injections. The force-feeding of hunger strikers at Guantánamo was called torture by 240 doctors who demanded it be halted in a letter to *The Lancet*.

On June 14, 2005, Senator Richard Durbin, D-Illinois, read on the floor of the U.S. Senate from an FBI memo that described the torture of a prisoner at Guantánamo who was chained to the floor for three days, and subjected to extreme heat and cold. Sen. Durbin said, "If I read this to you and did not tell you it was an FBI agent describing what Americans had done to prisoners in their control, you would most certainly believe this must have been done by Nazis, Soviets in their gulags, or some mad regime — Pol Pot or others — that had no concern for human beings."

## Who's getting away with torture?

\* Chief Warrant Officer Lewis Welshofer was freed by a military jury that had convicted him of homicide in the torture death of Iraqi Major General Abed Mowhoush. The General was killed after Welshofer stuffed him head first into a sleeping bag, beat him and threw himself on the man's chest while covering his mouth.

\* Federal Judge David Trager dismissed a lawsuit against the United States brought by Maher Arar, a Canadian citizen who was kidnapped at Kennedy Airport in 2002, flown to Jordan and taken to a Syrian prison where he was kept in a rat-infested underground pit and tortured for 10 months. He was released without charges.

\* Federal Judge Ricardo Urbina dismissed a lawsuit against Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and others brought by four Guantánamo prisoners who claimed their torture and wrongful imprisonment were the result of official U.S. policy. Judge Urbina ruled that Rumsfeld *et al.* acted in their official capacity and thus were immune from prosecution.

\* German law allows for individuals charged with war crimes to be investigated wherever they may be living. Nevertheless, Germany's attorney general declined to pursue charges, brought by the Center for Constitutional Rights, against Donald Rumsfeld, former CIA director George Tenant and eight other U.S. officials for war crimes in connection with torture at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. — JML

## Prison Sentences for Trespass at SOA

The activists below were convicted of petty misdemeanor trespass at the Army "School of Assassins" after Nov. 20th's 19,000-strong "Close the SOA" demonstration, the most well-attended in the campaign's 15-year history.

### One month in prison:

Anika Cunningham, 26, Bowling Green, Ohio (\$500 fine)

### Two months in prison:

Joanne Cowan, 56, Boulder, Colorado (no fine)  
Sam Foster, 70, Mpls., Minn. (\$500 fine)  
Michael Gayman, 26, Davenport, Iowa (\$500 fine)  
Rita Hohenshell, 81, Des Moines, Iowa (no fine)  
Dorothy Parker, 76, Chico, Calif. (no fine)  
Judith Ruland, 47, Springfield, Mass. (\$500 fine)  
Delmar Schwaller, 81, Appleton, Wisc. (no fine)

### Three months in prison:

Buddy Bell, 23, Chicago, Illinois (\$500 fine)  
Fred Brancel, 79, Madison, Wisc. (\$500 fine)  
Robert Call, 72, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey (no fine)  
Stephen Clemens, 55, Mpls., Minn. (\$500 fine)  
Scott Dempsey, 30, Denmark, Wisc. (\$500 fine)  
Joe DeRaymond, 55, Freemansburg, Penn. (\$500 fine)  
Sarah Harper, 36, Emeryville, Calif. (\$500 fine)  
Robin Lloyd, 67, Burlington, Vermont (\$500 fine)  
Gail Phares, 66, Raleigh, North Carolina (no fine)  
Don Nelson, 62, Summertown, Tennessee (no fine)  
Donte Smith, 19, Washington, DC (\$500 fine)  
Cheryl Sommers, 68, Berkeley, Calif. (\$500 fine)  
David Sylvester, 54, Oakland, Calif. (\$1,000 fine)  
Frank Woolever, 72, Syracuse, New York (no fine)

### Six months in prison:

Ken Crowley, Washington, DC (\$1,000 fine)  
Jane Hosking, 38, Luck, Wisc. (\$1,000 fine)  
John LaForge, 50, Luck, Wisc. (\$1,000 fine)  
Sr. Mary Dennis Lentsch, 69, Oak Ridge, Tenn. (no fine)  
Edward "Naed" Smith, 38, Harrisburg, Penn. (no fine)  
Fr. Louis Vitale, 73, San Francisco, Calif. (no fine)  
Fr. Jerome Zawada, 68, Cedar Lake, Indiana (no fine)

### Time served: (after 70+ days in county jail):

Priscilla Treska, 66, Cleveland, Ohio (no fine)

### 12 months probation:

Jamie Walters, 41, Columbia, Missouri (\$1,000 fine)  
Charles Carney, 47, Kansas City, Kansas (\$500 fine)

# NUCLEAR SHORTS

## Russian Nuclear Sub Threatens Contamination

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — A Russian nuclear submarine that sank in 2003 still sits at the bottom of the Barents Sea with 800 kilograms of highly radioactive fuel in its reactors. The sub, called the K-159, sits at a depth of 240 meters, and water pressure will eventually cause leaking from the reactors, if it hasn't already. The failure of the Russian government to raise the sub is causing widespread concern, especially within the fish-exporting industry which depends heavily on the Barents Sea.

The K-159 sank Aug. 30, 2003 while being towed for dismantlement, killing nine of its ten crew members. The Russian Navy has missed two different start dates for raising the sub. Funding is the main cause of delay, as Russia wants the yearly budget of the Navy to cover the estimated \$59 million cost. — *Bellona* [Italy], Sept. 1, 2005

## Corroding Tanks Store Depleted Uranium

PADUCAH, Kentucky — Cylinders storing depleted uranium at three nuclear facilities may be corroding because of toxic gas mistakenly left in them, according to a memo obtained by the *Louisville Courier Journal*. Over 2,500 cylinders at three sites — Paducah and Piketon, Ohio, and Oak Ridge, Tennessee — were previously used to store phosgene, a chemical warfare gas. The Sept. 30 memo, written by Alfred Walter, DOE Assistant Inspector General, shows that the DOE has known since October 2000 that the cylinders may contain residual phosgene.

Phosgene is a corrosive, toxic gas that the Germans used briefly during World War I. Exposure to skin causes lesions and burns, and inhalation causes a victim's lungs to fill with mucus and fluid. The gas cylinders were acquired during the 1940s and '50s from the Army's Chemical Warfare Service.

"We believe the findings may warrant immediate attention," Walters said in the memo. — *Louisville Courier Journal*, Oct. 25, & *Chillicothe Gazette* [Ohio], Oct. 29, 2005

## Truckers Fined for Radioactive Driving Hazard

LONDON, England — AEA Technology, a private arm of the British Atomic Energy Agency, was fined £250,000 (\$431,623) after workers from a privately contracted hazardous waste removal company were convicted in a London court for using the wrong safety packaging and failing to notice a missing safety plug before driving 130 miles across Britain to the Windscale reprocessing site at Sellafield. The opening left by the missing plug spewed a continuous dose of gamma (X) radiation emitted by cobalt-60, starting at a hospital in Leeds where the radionuclide had been used, all the way to Windscale in Cumbria. Anyone standing within one yard of the beam would feel sick within ten minutes and after two hours would have been killed. No one knows if anyone along the route was directly exposed to the high concentration of cobalt-60 gamma rays that streamed from the container in March of 2005 (cobalt-60 is used in X-ray machines to treat cancer patients, in food irradiators, and industrial X-ray machines, etc.). — *Washington Times* & *London Sunday Times*, Feb. 18, 2006

## Empty Plutonium Casks Fall from Truck

BLACKFOOT, Idaho — A semi truck returning to the Idaho National Laboratory overturned on Interstate-15 and dumped three empty rad waste transport casks onto the highway. Both lanes of the highway were closed for several hours as Idaho State Police hazardous material specialists tested the site. The empty casks, each weighing 12,500 pounds, are used to transport 55-gallon drums of plutonium-contaminated debris from the Idaho National Laboratory near Idaho Falls. The DOE-run lab conducts nuclear weapons and waste research. The truck was returning from the DOE's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, New Mexico. The driver was cited for inattentive driving. — *Idaho Statesman*, Jan. 28, 2006

## Radioactive Contamination at Tiny Landfill

NORTON, Mass. — Five to 11 truckloads of radioactive waste per day are expected to leave the 9-acre Shpack landfill site near here during a long-awaited clean up that will take until June. To the neighbors and town officials of Norton, the announced removal of the deadly hazardous waste from this Superfund site is only half the story. Area residents have spent two decades waiting for the federal government to clean up radioactive radium and uranium, as well as dichloroethylene, trichloroethylene and tetrachloroethylene at the site all of which have contaminated groundwater. The site accepted wastes from the 1940s until 1965, when it was closed by court order. The EPA claims it is still searching for the parties responsible for the contamination. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had said that clean up would begin Feb. 9, but incomplete paperwork caused yet another postponement. The first shipment of contaminated soil was scheduled to leave for Worcester, Feb. 16, and from there on to the notorious "Envirocare" dump in Utah. Assessing legal liability for the contamination awaits the EPA's 20-year-long investigation. — *Sun Chronicle*, Feb. 16, 2006

## Radioactive Waste Found at Holliston

HOLLISTON, Massachusetts — A solid waste transfer station southwest of Boston was shut down by order of the

Holliston Board of Health after radioactive waste was unknowingly processed and shipped out to a disposal site in Wareham, 40 miles away, where the radiation was detected. The load was refused and the truck returned to Holliston.

Casella Waste Systems, which was named in the shut down order, refused to quit, saying that only the state could issue a stop-work order, and although they "understood the concern and the reaction of the town" trucks continued to haul waste to and from the waste transfer station. The company did admit that its main radiation monitor was malfunctioning and they agreed to use a hand held radiation screening device until the main monitor was repaired, but "this screening was only done for a short while and then discontinued," according to the health board's order.

The company is currently seeking approval from Holliston's town Planning Board to expand operations, despite concerns from neighbors that contaminants from the station will be carried into the drinking water and that the site is already processing more waste than allowed. The company's failure to detect the radiation in the waste is just another in a long list of complaints about the station. The fact that the source of the radioactive waste is not yet known does little to assuage these concerns. — *Boston Globe*, Jan. 26, 2006

## H-Bomb Test Called Krakatau

LAS VEGAS, Nevada — On Feb. 23, a joint U.S. and British so-called "sub-critical" nuclear weapons test took place 85 miles northwest of Las Vegas in an underground complex. The bomb test was meant to "gather scientific data that provides crucial information to maintain the safety and reliability of each nation's weapons," National Nuclear Security Administration officials said. The bomb test, aptly code-named "Krakatau" — after the island that nearly disappeared under the awesome force of a volcano in 1883 — was said by NNSA to evaluate the stockpile of 5,521 nuclear weapons by using high-explosive chemicals that when detonated shock disseminating bits of plutonium. Since 1997, there have been 21 "sub-critical" experiments which critics argue violate the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. — *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, Feb. 23, 2006

## Don't Eat the Mushrooms

MOSCOW — Twenty years after the April 1986 radiation catastrophe at Chernobyl, large quantities of contaminated produce are still sold in Moscow markets. The produce is grown in western Russia and neighboring Belarus. This is nothing new to Elena Ter-Martirossov. She is the spokeswoman for Radon, the municipal authority in charge of radioactive security in Moscow. "Around 830 kilograms of radioactive produce was confiscated from Moscow markets in 2005," she stated, preceded by 986 kilograms of contaminated produce in 2004, a ton in 2003, three tons in 2002, and 1.5 tons in 2001. Ter-Martirossov also reported that, "There was a case involving radioactive meat in a shop in 2004, but it is very rare that shops are affected." Radon will be there to handle the removal and treatment of tainted goods. "Most of the produce is berries and mushrooms," Ter-Martirossov explained. "They grow close to the ground and quickly absorb any radioactive particles."

— *Agence France Presse*, Jan. 18, 2006

## Norwegian Military "Lost" Rad Waste

MOIRANA, Norway — Sixteen small containers of radioactive materials were found among scrap metal in a salvage dump in Nordland county. The Norwegian military is still missing another 88 small containers and has not yet explained how the containers were lost. Preliminary investigations show that nobody has been exposed to dangerous radiation, according to the National Radiation Protection Authority.

In related news, the Norwegian government has taken the bold step of penalizing seven international military contractors for their development of nuclear weapons or component parts by disinvesting in them. The companies are: BAE Systems, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, Finmeccanica, United Technologies, Honeywell International and Safran.

— *Norway Post*, Dec. 26, 2005 & *Janes Defense News Briefs*, Jan. 6, 2006

## Pentagon (Over) Spending Spree

WASHINGTON, DC — A retired Army Reserve Lieutenant Colonel, Paul Fellencer Sr., has documented over \$200 million in Pentagon waste that shows the military paid outlandish prices for household items. All told, Fellencer documented 135 cases of price gouging that the Pentagon dismissed as "unsubstantiated." Fellencer detailed the over-payments in a spreadsheet complete with stock number and purchase orders. U.S. Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C., said about the nonchalance, "We've got an agency that is not doing its job of being a watchdog for taxpayers." Buy paying so-called "prime vendors" rather than buying directly from manufacturers or seeking bids, the Pentagon threw away more than \$200 million Fellencer said. The waste included:

\* Deep-fat fryers for \$5,500 each when the same item was on the General Services Administration (GSA) price list for \$1,919.

\* An electric waffle iron for \$1,781 compared with the GSA price of \$655.

\* A popcorn maker worth \$768 cost taxpayers \$1,033.

\* Four toasters at \$1,025 each available for \$790.

— *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Jan. 24, 2006

## Uranium Ore Spill Threatens Arkansas River

SWISSVALE, Colorado — A truck hauling uranium ore to the Cotter Corp. uranium mill near Canon City, Colorado overturned and spilled 50,000 pounds of ore across U.S. Highway 50. Gross weight of the vehicle exceeded the legal limit by 2,140 pounds. Cotter distills uranium for nuclear power reactors. The load spilled down an embankment just shy of the Arkansas River. Although contamination of the river was not confirmed, Kim Woodruff of the Dept. of Wildlife and State Parks, said that if the uranium ore does reach the river it would have serious ramifications. "Uranium in the complex river system affects everything from mammals to fish," Woodruff said. The driver of the truck was cited with improper mountain driving and hauling a load heavier than the legal limit by more than a ton.

— *Canon City Daily Record*, Feb. 16, 2006



Photo by David Young, The Daily Record

This overturned Cotter Corp. truck spilled 25,000 pounds of raw uranium ore which likely contaminated the Arkansas River near Canon City, Colorado.

## Radioactive Pollution Identified by Activists

PORTSMOUTH, Ohio — Citizen activists with The RadioActivist Campaign collected foam and water flowing from the Portsmouth, Ohio Gaseous Diffusion Plant in November 2003. In the sample, they identified radium-226 at 100 times the normal background level using simple Geiger counter methods. Elevated radioactivity was confirmed by the operator, the U.S. Enrichment Corporation, which produced fuel for nuclear reactors.

— The RadioActivist Campaign, Dec. 12, 2005

## RESOURCES

- \* **Citizen's Action for Nuclear Disarmament**, 31 Rue du Cormier; 17100-Saintes, France; Email: contact@acdn.net; Web: acdn.net
- \* **Campaign Against Depleted Uranium**, CADU, Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats, Manchester, England, M4 7HR; (440)161-273-8293; Email: info@cadu.org.uk; Web: cadu.org.uk
- \* **Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space**, PO Box 652, Brunswick, ME 04011; (207) 729-0517; Email: globalnet@mindspring.com; Web: space4peace.org
- \* **Human Rights First**, 333 Seventh Avenue, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10001; (212) 845 or Human Rights First, 100 Maryland Ave. NE, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20002; (202) 547-5692; Web: humanrightsfirst.org
- \* **Institute for Energy & Environmental Research**, 6935 Laurel Ave., Suite 201, Takoma Park, MD 20912; (301) 270-5500; Email: ieer@ieer.org; Web: ieer.org
- \* **International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War**, Kortestrasse 10, 10967 Berlin, Germany; +49-30-6938166; Email: ippnw@ippnw.de; Web: ippnw.de
- \* **Institute for Science and International Security**, 236 Mass. Ave. NE, #500, Washington, DC 20002; 202-547-3633; Email: isis@isis-online.org; Web: isis-online.org
- \* **Laka Foundation, Documentation and Research Center on Nuclear Energy**, 1054 RD Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Phone: 020-6168294; Email: info@laka.org; Web: laka.org
- \* **Low Level Radiation Campaign**, The Knoll, Montpellier Park, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5LW, Britain; Phone: +01-59-782-4771; Email: bramhall@llrc.org; Web: llrc.org
- \* **Nuclear Age Peace Foundation**, 1187 Coast Village Road, #123, Santa Barbara, CA 93108; (805) 965-3443; Email: napf@igc.apc.org; Web: wagingpeace.org
- \* **Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS)**; 1424 16th Street NW, #404, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 328-0002; Email: nirsnet@nirs.org; Web: nirs.org
- \* **Nuke Info Tokyo**, Citizens' Nuclear Information Center, 3F Kotobuki Bldg., 1-58-15, Higashi-nakano, Nakano-ku, Tokyo 164-0003, Japan; Email: cnic@nifty.com; Web: cnic.jp/english/
- \* **Public Citizen**, 1600 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009, (202) 588-1000; Web: citizen.org
- \* **Physicians for Social Responsibility**, 1875 Conn. Av. NW, #1012, Washington, DC 20009; (202) 667-4206; Web: psr.org
- \* **Radiation and Public Health Project**, 302 W. 86th St., # 11B, New York, NY 10024; (800) 582-3716; Email: odiejoe@aol.com; Web: radiation.org
- \* **RadioActivist Campaign**, (360) 275-1351; Email: search@igc.org; Web: radioactivist.org
- \* **SOA Watch**, PO Box 456, Washington, DC 20017; (202) 234-2440; Email: info@soaw.org; Web: soaw.org
- \* **Shundahai Network**, PO Box 1115, Salt Lake City, UT 84110; (801) 533-0128; Email: shundahai@shundahai.org; Web: shundahai.org
- \* **Union of Concerned Scientists**, 2 Brattle Square, Cambridge, MA 02238; (617) 547-5552; Web: ucsusa.org
- \* **World Information Service on Energy**, P.O. Box 59636, 1040 LC Amsterdam, Netherlands; Web: antenna.nl/wise; Email: wiseamster@antenna.nl

# Success Impossible in "War on Terror"

By John LaForge

*As long as we concentrate all our efforts on protecting a technological, social and economic system that is not sustainable and which has been in the early, progressive stages of collapse for several years, we leave ourselves at the mercy of the terrorists. — David Ehrenfeld, Orion*

*The conditions of modern civilization, from nuclear power reactors to centralized water installations, could not be more suited to terrorist ambush. We have built for ourselves a giant stack of cards that is vulnerable to the mildest of winds, and against which the only safeguard ... is decentralization on every level.*

— Zac Goldsmith, *The Ecologist*

News and analysis of the military occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan show that armed takeovers and dirty war cannot succeed.

Bush himself said as much Aug. 30, 2004, when he told NBC's *Today* show, "I don't think we can win it," referring to "this" so-called "war on terror." His minders then rushed to reverse the President.

Members of Bush's own party have talked of "losing." Republican Senator Chuck Hagel of Nebraska called Bush's assessments of Iraq "disconnected from reality," saying, "It's like they're just making it up as they go along. The reality is that we are losing in Iraq."

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a U.S. general in Baghdad said last May, "I think that this could still fail. ... and if we let go of the insurgency and take our foot off its throat, then this country could fail and go back into civil war and chaos."

Since all of them eventually failed, the history of unpopular military occupations should have provided a warning. Milt Bearden, a 30-year CIA veteran and former head of secret operations, wrote in the *Chicago Tribune*, "Every nationalist-based insurgency against a foreign occupation ultimately succeeded." Not some of them, not most of them, every one of them.

Former Republican majority leader Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi faced reality in Nov. 2003 when he said, "Honestly, it's a little tougher than I thought it was going to be." But he had a Hiroshima-style answer. "If we have to, we just mow the whole place down, see what happens."

## Army's recruitment down; insurgency's up

An August 2005 Pentagon report found that flagging military recruitment, if not reversed, could lose the war. The study by Andrew Krepinevich, U.S. Army, Ret., said current recruiting numbers, "could not sustain the pace of troop deployments to Iraq long enough to break the back of the insurgency."

U.S. commanders say the occupation itself is building the resistance. Major General Peter Chiarelli, commander of the Army's 38,000-member 1st Cavalry, said last August, "If there is nothing else done other than kill bad guys ... the only thing accomplished is moving more people from the fence to the insurgent category."

Both the CIA and the National Intelligence Council said the same last year, finding that Iraq's occupation, "could

provide recruitment, training grounds, technical skills and language proficiency for a new class of terrorists."

While U.S. presidents and cabinet secretaries speak of "winning hearts & minds," the troops tell what it's like to terrorize civilians. "With a heavy dose of fear and violence, and a lot of money for projects, I think we can convince people that we are here to help them," said Lt. Col. Nathan Sassaman, whose unit was occupying the Iraqi village of Abu Hishma.

Some officers have been more descriptive. "First we blow up your house, then we pay you to rebuild it," Col. Michael Olivier told the *New York Times*. He said Najaf residents protested damage to their houses. "This little mud hut's worth \$1,000. So you give them \$1,000, and they're happy," he said. But Kamal Mohammed Saleh, who stayed in Falluja during the Marines' 2004 attack, said, "If I lose my house, my life is gone."

Little wonder that the U.S. Army War College's Andrew Terrill concluded, "We seem to have a lot of folks in Iraq not interested in being liberated by us. ..."

Police state militarism is of course being taught to Iraqis. Iraq's interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said in 2004 that he'd created a secret police, the National Security Directorate, "to help root out insurgents" by infiltrating the insurgency. "Terrorism will be annihilated, God willing," he said.

Well, if not terrorism, then a large percentage of the population.

## The death toll

The renowned medical journal *Lancet* published a heavily peer-reviewed study in Sept. 2004, estimating that 100,000 Iraqis had been killed during the invasion and occupation. Researchers from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Columbia University School of Nursing and Baghdad's Al-Mustransiriya University conducted the survey. The report was discredited by the White House and corporate media.

It is significant that the survey was done by medical researchers. The first thing U.S. soldiers did upon attacking Falluja in November of 2004 was to take over the hospital. The Pentagon claims that the number of civilian deaths has been inflated by the Red Cross, international mortality reports and by hospital staff.

Another study, by the Geneva-based Graduate Institute of International Studies, says 40,000 Iraqis have been killed as a direct result of the invasion. A smaller number by the public database Iraqi Body Count estimates that, as of Feb. 28, 2006, up to 32,153 Iraqi civilians have died since the March 2003 invasion.

## Freedom and liberty — for the occupiers

The U.S. military says it plans to expand its prisons in Iraq to hold 16,000. From June '04 to June '05, the prison population in Iraq Abu Ghraib, Camp Bucca and Camp Cropper — doubled from 5,435 to 10,002. "We are past the normal capacity for both Abu Ghraib and Camp Bucca," Lt. Col. Guy Rudisill said last June. "We are at surge capacity."

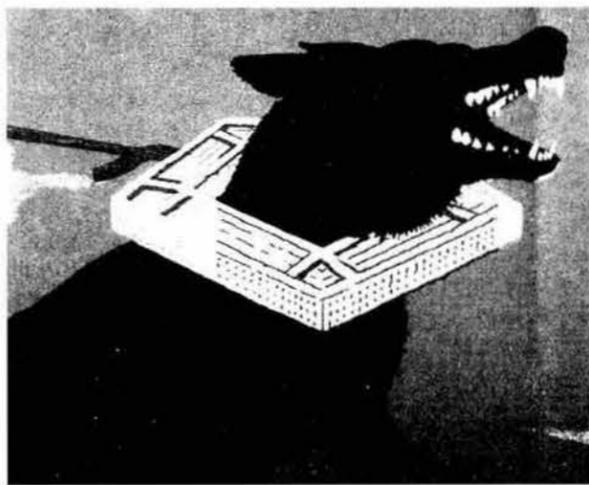


Illustration by Alex Nabaum for the *New York Times*

The three major prisons run by the U.S. occupation are "bursting" with at least 8,900 Iraqi prisoners. The scandalous Abu Ghraib torture camp, with a capacity of 2,500, is jammed with 3,160. Another 5,640 prisoners are being kept at Camp Bucca in the south which will expand to hold 6,000.

Guards at Camp Bucca killed four prisoners Jan. 31, 2005, when they fired on a group of sling-shot armed inmates. Commanders said the inmates' uprising was not a result of overcrowding.

The killing of prisoners has outraged people around the world. On Nov. 13, 2004, a marine shot and killed a wounded Iraqi prisoner in a mosque in Falluja. Television news aired the videotaped murder. "Obviously, the shooting of an incapacitated detainee is a fundamental violation of the Law of Armed Conflict," said James Ross of Human Rights Watch.

Entire villages have been made into internment camps. The *New York Times* described the process: "American soldiers have begun wrapping entire villages in barbed wire. In selective cases, American soldiers are demolishing buildings thought to be used by Iraqi attackers. They have begun imprisoning the relatives of suspected guerillas, in hopes of pressing the insurgents to turn themselves in." When committed by insurgents, U.S. forces call these actions hostage taking and kidnapping.

## Fleeing the crime scene

Legal liability for war crimes may be moving the rats to abandon ship. Eighty-nine House Democrats have demanded to see British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw's "Downing Street" memos to Tony Blair regarding the run-up to the war. Last year's disclosure of the memos "raises troubling new questions regarding the legal justifications for the war," they said.

The memos indicate that Straw "feared [an invasion] was ill-conceived and illegal and could lead to disaster." Straw laid out "the political problems in convincing members of Parliament that the use of force was justified and legal" and "noted that no legal justification currently existed for invasion."

The last word might well go to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who said Sept. 15, 2004 that the war was illegal.

The "coalition" occupying Iraq has been disintegrating ever since the war's pretexts began unraveling. Of 30 original "partners," 13 are gone or leaving. The departure of the Netherlands, Ukraine, Poland and Spain mean 5,300 fewer occupiers.

## The lying game

Endless repetition of the Big Lie can't bring victory, but that hasn't kept the administration's Chicken Hawks from trying.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has made the astonishing claim that the war was *not preemptive*. "This war came to us, not the other way around," she said May 15, 2005. Nine months earlier Bush broadcast the same shocker, saying to the American Legion, "We meet at a time of war, a war we did not start, yet one that we will win."

Bush claimed in a State of the Union message that "tens of thousands" of Al Qaeda terrorists have been trained and are targeting U.S. nuclear facilities, water treatment plants and landmarks. Considering the obvious vulnerability of these and thousands of other U.S. targets, Bush's warning, especially if it were true, is reason enough to abandon the war and take a new approach.



The *Pathfinder* is the quarterly newsletter of Nukewatch, a project of The Progressive Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1981 by Samuel H. Day, Jr.

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## Bush Wants \$439.3 Billion for Pentagon/Yr

In early February, the Bush Administration unveiled its request for a \$439.3 billion military budget. With a 5 percent increase over the current fiscal year, the plan fails to eliminate a single weapon system. The proposal includes \$16.8 billion for the Army, up from \$11 billion this year, and \$84.2 billion for weapons (an 8 percent increase). \$435.3 billion per year breaks down this way:

\$1.2 billion a day;  
\$50 million an hour;  
\$835 thousand a minute; or  
\$13.9 thousand every second.

The proposal does not include spending for U.S. warfare in Afghanistan and Iraq. The cost of the military occupation of Iraq has been just under \$5 billion a month; for Afghanistan another \$800 million/month. The Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments says the total cost of both wars has been about \$331 billion since Sept. 11, 2001. In addition, Bush requested another \$70 billion for the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

## Nukewatch Wants Your Contribution & Your Email Address

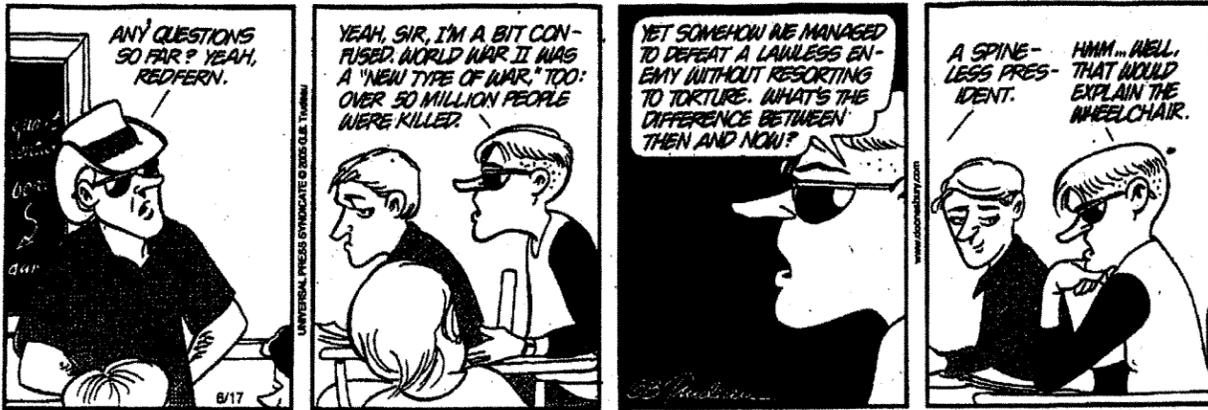
Nukewatch has received no notice that any of the \$439 billion requested from taxpayers by the Bush Administration is going to pay for our work for peace. Not one dime, in spite of our need to replace an old and failing computer and printer, our need for a reliable vehicle or our need for a working fax machine. Nukewatch could exist for the following number of years with equivalent funding:

\$439.3 billion	10,975,000 years
One hour of the military budget	37,500 years
One minute	1,250 years
One second	almost 21 years

Please use the enclosed envelope and send a donation to:

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P.O. Box 649  
Luck, Wisconsin 54853

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## Iranian Bomb Ten Years Out:

### Euro-based Oil Exchange the Real Threat

By Mike Miles

The world is facing another oil currency war. Iran is about to open the world's third energy trade exchange or "bourse." Currently, the only two places where oil can be purchased is the NYMEX in New York City and the IPE in London, both of which sell oil denominated only in dollars. The exchange opening in Tehran on March 21, 2006 is going to be the only place where oil can be purchased in euros — a change that could cause a run on the banks when traders begin dumping the dollar for euros. So serious is this challenge that beginning on March 23, 2006 the Federal Reserve will no longer publicize how much U.S. currency is in circulation — a monetary construct known as "M3." Another reason put forward for hiding M3 is that China has announced that it is diversifying its \$800 billion in U.S. currency so it isn't left holding the bag if the dollar declines in value. China has strong trade relations with Iran and knows that soon they will be able to buy oil directly from Iran using euros.

The philosophical foundation for all of this goes back to the end of the cold war and a paper written by Paul Wolfowitz who was reporting to then Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney in the George H.W. Bush administration. Wolfowitz had written a 42-page document called "Defense Planning Guidance." The paper declares who our new enemies are in the post-Soviet world, and announces that no one, even friends and allies, will be allowed to challenge U.S. interests. After Bush I was defeated, Wolfowitz went on to help create the "Project for the New American Century" and its militarized approach to every economic and political crisis.

What is most alarming as we approach the March 21 opening of the Iranian oil exchange is that the United States is posturing itself for a preemptive military strike against Iran to prevent the exchange from opening, all under the guise of keeping Iran from pursuing nuclear weapons.

Mike Miles is a founder of the Anathoth Community Farm and a Green Party candidate for the U.S. Congress in Wisconsin. A longer and footnoted version of this article is at <[www.runmilesforcongress.org](http://www.runmilesforcongress.org)>

## Food Irradiation Update

### Former Surebeam Reopens in Sioux City

Despite consumers' refusal to embrace irradiation for preventing food borne illnesses, an investment team known as Sadex Corporation has revived food irradiation at a former Surebeam facility in Sioux City, Iowa. Surebeam went bankrupt in January 2004. Consumer concerns regarding the safety of irradiated foods and higher prices of the treated products were considered the primary reasons for the failure of the company. However, the plant reopened in June and has already begun putting irradiated meat back on the shelves.

Twelve Sadex shareholders bought the Surebeam equipment. In its irradiation process, Sadex passes meat, fruits, vegetables, cosmetics, spices, pet foods, veterinarian supplies and other products under a powerful electron beam to kill bacteria. Nutrients are also compromised — studies have shown that 90 percent of vitamin A in chicken, 86 percent of vitamin B in oats and 70 percent of vitamin C in fruit juice were destroyed during the irradiation process. Irradiation

produces new compounds in food that have been linked to cancer and genetic damage. — *Omaha World-Herald*, Dec. 30, 2005; Public Citizen, [www.citizen.org/cmep/foodsafety/food\\_irrad](http://www.citizen.org/cmep/foodsafety/food_irrad)

### Food Irradiation Facility Proposed In Honolulu

In July 2005, Pa'ina Hawaii, a fruit company, announced plans to build a food irradiation facility near the Honolulu airport. It plans to irradiate fruits and vegetables using radioactive cobalt-60 in order to kill fruit flies. A petition filed by Earthjustice on behalf of Concerned Citizens of Honolulu requests a hearing in front of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to consider alternative locations and technologies. The petition argues that there are inadequate measures in place to protect against radiation release due to mechanical failures, power outages, airplane accidents, acts of sabotage or terrorism, hurricanes, and tsunamis.

— Earthjustice press release, <[www.citizen.org/cmep/foodsafety/food\\_irrad/](http://www.citizen.org/cmep/foodsafety/food_irrad/)>

# Calendar

### Keep Space for Peace Week:

Organize Local Protests  
Against the Militarization of Space  
October 1-8, 2006

The government may soon begin deploying offensive weapons systems in outer space. The *Keep Space for Peace Week* of local actions takes the issue to classrooms, libraries, TV and radio programs, churches, military bases, aerospace corporation facilities and congressional offices. Organize a local activity. Help expand opposition to the dangerous, costly, destabilizing nuclearization and weaponization of space. Contact: Global Network (see Resources, p.3)

**Chernobyl + 20:**  
Lessons from the Catastrophe  
An international conference  
Kiev, Ukraine: April 23-25, 2006

April 26 marks the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Ukraine. Even as the true dimensions of the worst industrial accident in history become clearer, the nuclear power industry — backed by the Bush administration — is seeking to begin the first new reactor construction in the U.S. in more than 30 years. The industry claims that new atomic reactors can be used to combat global climate change, but environmentalists argue that relapsing into a nuclear program would prevent meaningful solutions to the climate crisis. Clearly, the nuclear power issue is as controversial as

ever. Sponsored by NIRS; WISE; Heinrich Boell Foundation; Greens in the European Parliament; International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, and Ecoclub (Ukraine). Contact: NIRS (see Resources, p.3)

**Global Network Annual Meeting**  
June 23-28, 2006  
**World Peace Forum, Vancouver, BC**

The Global Network will be holding its annual meeting in conjunction with the World Peace Forum's conference, "Working to End War and Build a Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World." A special plenary will address *Weapons in Space: Should We Extend the Arms Race into the Heavens?* on Sunday, June 25. A track of workshops on the nuclearization and weaponization of space will be included. Contact: <[worldpeaceforum.ca](http://worldpeaceforum.ca)>

**Protest the International Space Foundation Symposium**  
Colorado Springs, CO: April 3-6, 2006

Protest the Space Foundation's annual symposium to promote U.S. control of space. Last year over 6,000 military personnel and aerospace corporation representatives attended. *Citizens for Peace In Space* (CPIS) and the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space (GN) will vigil daily at the conference. Home stays for out-of-towners. Contact: Bill Sulzman, (719) 389-0644.

## Nuclear Hypocrisy & Double Standards

In March, George Bush signed an agreement to sell U.S. reactors and guarantee "a permanent supply of nuclear fuel" to India. Like a half-dozen international agreements trashed by Bush before it, his latest action would see the U.S. abandon the hard-won 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The nuclear reactor deal with India — if approved by the U.S. Congress and the Indian Parliament — would violate the United State's legal obligations under the NPT prohibiting the sale of fuel and nuclear technology to nuclear-armed states.

India has built an arsenal of 40-to-50 H-bombs.\* It refuses to join the NPT and has threatened to use its nuclear arsenal against neighboring Pakistan.

If the deal is Okayed, 14 of India's 22 reactors would be subject to inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), while its military reactors — including two plutonium production "fast-breeder" reactors for H-bombs — would not.

Bush's U.S.-India pact even allows India's nuclear weapons program the right to build new "fast-breeder" reactors allowing development of far more nuclear weapons more quickly than in the past.

A consistent policy of nuclear weapons nonproliferation would have the U.S. halt the sale of nuclear reactors and fuel anywhere in the world.

But international reactor politics are tied up in complicated knots of cynical hypocrisy, which sees the White House cozying up to nuclear-armed Pakistan and India.

Both states are courted and pampered by Washington; Pakistan for its mercenary participation in the U.S. war in Afghanistan, and India for its commercial and marketing advantages.

In signing the Indian deal, Bush had the nerve to say his green light for New Delhi's H-bomb secrecy and proliferation, "is in our interest."

The interest Bush meant by "ours" was illustrated by the simultaneous agreement reached between corporate leaders of five U.S. and 10 Indian companies, on "ways to improve investment and commercial links." Cisco, Intel, Microsoft, Coca-Cola, Nike, Dell and Yum Brands, which owns Pizza Hut and KFC, are racing to double the amount of trade, to \$50 billion, over the next three years. In Dec., Seattle-based Boeing won a 68-plane deal with Air India worth \$11 billion.

### Dogs of war sniffing oil

Simultaneously, Bush insists with a straight face that Iran and North Korea cannot be allowed to do exactly what India's and Pakistan's international scofflaws are doing. Bush's whole foreign policy apparatus hisses fiery denunciation of Iran's civilian nuclear power plans. Iran, is a party to the NPT and thus has a legal right to conduct research into and produce nuclear reactors and fuel for electricity.

Indeed what better way to hamstring members of the so-called "axis of evil," than to sell them the radioactive Trojan Horses of leaky, uncontrollable, and cancer causing nuclear reactors?

Another explanation for the glaring nuclear hypocrisy is that the dogs of war are hunting for Iranian oil reserves — the 6th largest in the world (see related report by Mike Miles) — and need a smoke screen behind which to threaten another military invasion and take-over.

(The United Arab Emirates's port at Abu Dhabi is directly across the Persian Gulf, 50 miles from Iran. The U.S.'s potential use of this strategic military choke point, for troop deployment, landing strips and the U.S. Navy, couldn't possibly be a quid pro quo for Bush's attempted sale of six U.S. seaports to UAE.)

U.S. intelligence analysts agree that Iran is at least 10 years away from producing a bomb, and to build would require applying "the full measure of its [Iran's] scientific and industrial resources to the project."

If the U.S. were sincere in wishing to prevent an Iranian nuclear arsenal, it could offer simple incentives: lift economic sanctions; provide high-tech assistance; offer assurances of non-aggression and a nuclear fuel supply for its reactor; and supply energy and economic assistance.+

Regarding North Korea: The famine-stricken country offered last year that in exchange for abandoning a nuclear weapons program, it should get nuclear reactors to generate electricity. This offer of nonproliferation was rejected out of hand by the U.S. envoy, threatening a reactor sale agreement made in 1999.

If the Bush people really wanted to halt the spread of H-bombs it would agree to these simple proposals.

— JML

\* *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, Robert Norris & Hans Kristensen, "India's nuclear forces, 2005", Sept.-Oct. 2005

+ *Ibid*, Sept./Oct. 2003

# New Reactors Threaten Children's Health

By Joseph J. Mangano

Later in 2006, the NRC will likely decide whether to grant an Early Site Permit (ESP) to three nuclear utilities. If the NRC approves them, the door will be open for the first order of a new U.S. nuclear reactor since 1978.

Some groups and individuals are horrified at this prospect, and have opposed the ESP applications. But much of the opposition has focused on the chance for a Chernobyl-like accident in the reactor core, or that stored nuclear waste will leak. These are *potential* consequences of new reactors, since the U.S. has never had an accident like Chernobyl, and waste has never been introduced into the food chain. But the *actual* consequences — damage that will result from radioactive emissions we *know* will occur because they *have* occurred — have largely been ignored.

Everyone, even nuclear utilities, agrees that operating a reactor must involve release of some airborne radioactivity through the stacks. The term ALARA (As Low As Reasonably Achievable) is frequently used to describe emissions goals of operators.

But the releases are never zero, and are dangerous, even in small quantities. Over 100 chemicals make up reactor emissions, the same toxic mix found in the massive mushroom clouds after atomic bomb tests. They take the form of particles and gases and enter the body through breathing, eating and drinking.

Each of the 100-plus chemicals causes cancer and attacks different parts of the body. Strontium-90 attaches to teeth and bone. Iodine-131 is taken up by the thyroid gland. Cesium-137 disperses throughout the soft tissues. Even at low doses, these poisons destroy and injure cells, according to a 2005 blue-ribbon panel convened by the National Academy of Sciences. They are especially toxic to fetuses and infants, which will incur about 10 times the damage as the typical adult, according to a 2003 EPA estimate.

Perhaps the most effective challenge to utilities pushing to build the first new reactor in decades is to make them prove they have operated existing reactors safely. They should not be allowed permission to build just because they keep emissions below NRC standards. An examination of health patterns of people living near the reactor should be required.

Such a study would reveal some disturbing facts, especially for local fetuses and infants. One good way to explore the damage is to compare infant death rates immediately before and after reactor start-up. Reactors at each of the three sites with ESP applications, and the date of initial criticality (radioactive fission products produced in the reactor) are Clinton, near Champaign, Illinois, February 27, 1987; Grand Gulf, near Vicksburg, Mississippi, August 18, 1982; and North Anna 1, near Charlottesville, Virginia, April 5, 1978. A basic comparison of infant mortality rates in local counties\* during the year of start-up and the two years after yield startling results (See graph top right).

The typical change in rate for the United States is about minus 3 percent.

Only some newborns born in the initial year of criticality are exposed to radioactive releases from the local nuclear reactors, and those tend to be relatively small, as reactors operate at less than 100 percent power immediately after criticality. But all babies born in the two years after start-up were exposed to reactor emissions, when the reactor had reached 100 percent power.

Why did infant death rates near the three reactors rise 14 percent, 38 percent, and 15 percent, when the typical change for the U.S. is a decrease of about 3 percent? There are no obvious reasons, especially over such a short period of time. The available care from physicians and hospitals was unchanged; maternal diets were no different; and there was no large rise in any other major pollution source. The abrupt rises in infant deaths should not be seen as a fluke, but as a pattern.

The findings should provoke a number of questions that go beyond just infant health in the first two years after nuclear reactor start-up:

What happened to infant health after the first two years of operation?

What other effects (premature births and birth defects) occurred in infants?

What changes in health took place in local children, adolescents and adults?

The answers to these questions are virtually unknown. Certainly the utilities who boast that nuclear reactors are safe have conducted no research, nor have public health departments who typically give the party line that "nuclear energy is safe." Considering that over 100 nuclear power reactors have operated in the U.S. and that millions of Americans live close by, thousands of lives may have been lost or impaired.

While the meltdown scenario is a good reason for opposing new reactors, we do not need to experience another Chernobyl to harm Americans. The word of the NRC and the utilities that nuclear reactors operate safely because emissions of radioactivity are low should not be accepted without questions. People must hold [nuclear power utilities] accountable for their actions, and should demand a local health "report card" as a criterion for the NRC to use when

making decisions on the ESP applications. With these decisions due in months, and new reactor orders just around the corner, these steps are critical.

*Joseph Mangano is National Coordinator of the Radiation and Public Health Project, a professional research group based in New York City.*

\* Local counties defined as those situated totally or mostly within 40 miles of the reactor, including Claiborne, Jefferson, and Warren (Grand Gulf) in Miss.; Madison and Tensas (Grand Gulf) in Louisiana; Champaign, Christian, Coles, DeWitt, Douglas, Logan, Macon, McLean, Menard, Moultrie, Piatt, Sangamon and Tazewell (Clinton), all in Illinois; and Albemarle, Culpeper, Fluvanna, Goochland, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Orange, Spotsylvania and Charlottesville City (North Anna), all in Virginia.

## Four-hour Emergency at LaSalle

SENECA, Illinois — Exelon declared an emergency Feb. 21 at its LaSalle Unit 1, southwest of Chicago, after the reactor tripped during a scheduled shutdown. A malfunction of the reactor turbine control system first triggered the automatic shutdown but was followed by instrument malfunction. The position of reactor control rods could not be confirmed because of instrument failure. Instruments showed three of 185 rods failed to insert fully into the reactor core: one rod failed to insert and two were "indeterminate." Control rod failure is the second-highest of four reactor emergency categories. The site emergency was declared at 12:28 a.m.

Post event evaluations declare that all control rods were inserted into the reactor core within 4 minutes — if not seconds — of shutdown. Equipment failure and operator error lead to the partial meltdown at Three Mile Island in 1979. And the Chernobyl reactor's loss of control in 1986 took only 30 seconds to catapult 190 tons of reactor fuel into the atmosphere. Exelon foresees no delay in restart after refueling.

If more than one control rod would not properly insert, nuclear fuel could escape into cooling water, "That would have required a clean up operation and brought radioactivity one barrier closer to the public," according to David Lochbaum of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

The last site-area emergency was declared in 1991 at Nine Mile Point 2 reactor in New York when key instruments used to monitor the reactor lost power.

— *Chicago Tribune*, Feb. 21; PRNewswire, Feb. 21, 2006

## More DOE Dollars for Deadly Reactors

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Energy on Dec. 15, announced 24 research awards totaling \$12 million over three years to U.S. universities to engage students and professors in advanced nuclear energy research and development programs. "These awards support the department's advanced nuclear technology development efforts and foster the education and training of the next generation of scientists and engineers needed to move this vital industry forward," Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman said. — Office of Nuclear Energy, Dec. 15, 2005

## Worldwide Opinion: No New Reactors

VIENNA — A majority of those surveyed in 18 countries are opposed to building new nuclear reactors, according to a poll published by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna.

"Six in ten citizens (62 percent) overall believe that existing nuclear reactors should continue to be used, yet six in ten (59 percent) do not favor new nuclear reactors being built," the survey of about 18,000 people showed.

These findings come "at a time when the nuclear power option is being vigorously pursued in the fast developing countries of Asia and being reconsidered in some European nations and the U.S.," the IAEA said. Only in South Korea do a majority of people support the building of new reactors, the survey found.

The poll was carried out from May to August by the U.S. institute Globescan Inc., in Argentina, Australia, Britain, Cameroon, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and the United States.

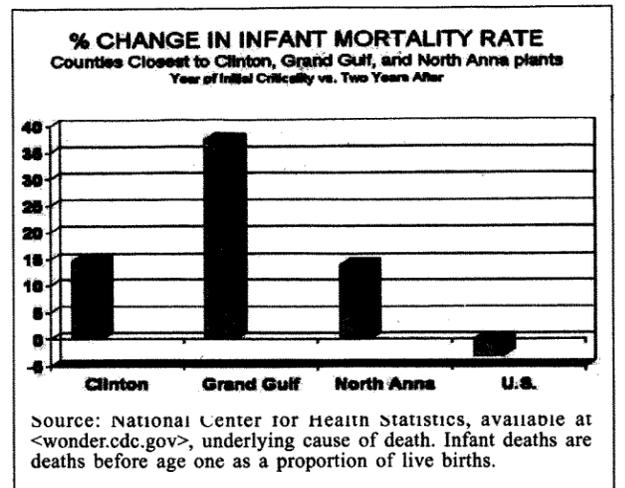
— *Agence France Presse*, Dec. 14, 2005

## Nuclear Medicine and Reactor Leaks in Japan

TOKYO — Like the U.S., Japan is aggressively promoting nuclear power, but after three separate accidents in November of 2005, public confidence has been rattled.

Researchers at the pharmaceutical company Seikagaku Corp. failed to shut off a tap in a laboratory and caused a tank of radioactive wastewater to overflow into a public sewer. The company was ordered to temporarily halt experiments involving radioactive materials, improve safety procedures, and submit a report. A corporate spokeswoman said the company uses isotopes for a wide range of drugs.

Meanwhile, at the Tsuruga reactor in western Japan, two separate leaks were discovered by inspectors. About 300 millimeters of cooling water was found leaking from a



condensation pump while another 30-liter leak was discovered near a separate supply pump in the same building. These incidents follow a similar leak in September that forced the reactor to temporarily reduce power. The company is still investigating the causes of all three leaks, hoping to calm public outrage after a corroded pipe carrying high-pressure and superheated steam burst in a similar reactor killing 5 workers in August 2004.

— *Mainichi Newspapers*, Nov. 25, 2005

## Radioactive Steam Leak Trips French Reactor

PARIS, France — Electricite de France, Inc. is still looking for the source of a steam generator tube leak at the Cruas-4 reactor, causing the 900-megawatt unit to shutdown Feb. 11. An official at the French nuclear safety authority was quick to quell rumors that the tube had ruptured, which is considered a serious radiation accident in a pressurized water reactor. The leak amounts to about 500 liters of contaminated water per hour and the official had the gall to refer to the volume of the venting as equivalent to "a leaky faucet."

— *Platts*, Feb. 23, 2006

## Koeberg Shuts Down, May Be Sabotage

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Koeberg, S.A.'s only reactors have been plagued with problems since they began operating. On the eve of the country's local government elections, electricity is failing. Blackouts are the result of suspected sabotage at Koeberg. An email first said to be a hoax read in part, "... As you are fond of electricity cut-offs on the poor and oppressed in South Africa, so taste a bit of that which they taste! And let your businesses lose out, in an economy where the poor see no benefits." The organization that sent the email threatened to continue with raids at the reactor. The National Intelligence Agency is investigating the claim of sabotage made by Public Enterprises Minister Alec Erwin. The damage to one of the generators at Koeberg, reportedly caused by a bolt, has brought about frequent shutdowns of the reactor and outages of electricity in the Western Cape Province since December, causing huge economic losses. Consumers have been told to expect "load-shedding" blackouts for weeks and perhaps months.

— *Johannesburg Business Day*, March 2; *Xinhuanet*, Feb. 28, 2006

## Danger, No Exit

WISCONSIN — In 2004 the Port Washington Power Plant (PWPP) was demolished in preparation for the construction of a new gas-fired generator. Before demolition began, 56 EXIT signs, each containing 20-30 curies of Tritium gas, were taken down, boxed up and scheduled for return to the manufacturer. The signs were accounted for in a December 2004 inventory, but during the fourth quarter of 2005 WE Energies found that there was no record of the signs being returned. An investigation ensued. After speaking with contractors and subcontractors it appeared that the documentation was lost, the EXIT signs were lost and no further investigation was planned. It was assumed that the radioactive EXIT signs were in a landfill buried under general trash. No search of the landfill would be conducted.

• On April 12, 2005 an employee of a St. Vincent de Paul Store in Monroe dismantled an EXIT sign and discovered a "Caution: Radioactive Material" label on the device. The device was identified as an Everglow Safety Sign that contained 25 curies of Tritium. The Wisconsin Radiation Protection Section investigated the incident and found a local scrap dealer had since picked up the device with other scrap from the St. Vincent de Paul Store. An additional intact EXIT sign was discovered at the scrap yard, also containing 25 curies of tritium. The EXIT signs and tubes have been removed from the public domain.

• On Aug. 25, Cascade Asset Management Company workers in Madison found several EXIT signs containing tritium with a shipment of recyclable materials. The state Radiation Protection Section located six intact signs and pieces of other signs. Wipes were taken from the signs and are being analyzed for contamination. The signs were placed in bags, sealed and relocated. The Wisconsin Radiation Protection Section is attempting to locate the owners of the signs.

— U.S. Regulatory Commission Operations Center, Event Reports for April 19-20 & August 31-Sept. 1, 2005

# Save Skull Valley, Stop PFS

## What Is Private Fuel Storage?

A cartel of private companies called Private Fuel Storage (PFS) has connived to sell a storage space rental plan to the people of the tiny Skull Valley Goshute Band. The cartel wants a private dump because the federal government has yet to open a centralized repository for high-level radioactive waste from commercial reactors.

The PFS plan would ship 44,000 tons of high-level radioactive waste (used uranium fuel) across the country to Utah and leave it in large casks above ground on the reservation. Worked up over ten years, the PFS scheme is an attempt to relieve reactor operators of liability for their deadly waste. The Skull Valley Goshute people currently number 500, of which 124 are enrolled members of the Skull Valley Band, 45 miles west of Salt Lake City, Utah. The Band occupies its traditional territory in Utah but the area surrounding the Reservation's 18,000 acres is today inundated with pollution-intensive industry and waste disposal. The Goshute Band was never consulted about the placement of any of the following industrial operations:

- \* The Dugway Proving Grounds where the U.S. produced and tested chemical and biological weapons;
- \* A nerve gas storage site where the world's largest poison gas incinerator has been built;
- \* The Intermountain Power Project which burns coal to send electricity to markets in California. The plant fills the desert sky with smoke stack emissions;
- \* The notorious Envirocare Low-Level Radioactive Waste Site, part of EnergySolutions, which buries nuclear waste brought in from all around the country. Envirocare has repeatedly been convicted and fined for violating state and federal environmental statutes;
- \* The Magnesium Corporation, declared by the EPA to be the most polluting magnesium production site in the country.

## Why you should care

- \* Targeting Native North American Indian land for nuclear waste is ethically outrageous.
- \* A typical shipment will carry 240 times the radiation of the Hiroshima bomb. The shipping containers have only been tested with computer modeling—and never “tested to failure.”
- \* This is the first time federal regulators have licensed an area—apart from a reactor—that would be used for commercial nuclear reactor waste.
- \* Utah has no nuclear power reactors and is officially, from Congress to the state capital, fighting to stop the dump.

## Depleted Uranium Update

# PSR Minimizes Depleted Uranium's Health Hazards

By Henk van der Keur

A recently published Physicians for Social Responsibility report on health issues associated with depleted uranium (DU) surprisingly failed to draw on recent literature, studies and accepted knowledge on the issue. In fact, the number of scientific health studies on DU poisoning included were somewhat inadequate.

It is not known why the authors of the PSR report chose to focus on information retrieved from outdated DU health literature reports by the RAND Corporation but ignored more recent empirical studies like that of the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI).

Since around 1998 there has been a growing body of evidence from in vitro and in vivo studies indicating that DU oxides may be genotoxic, mutagenic and tumorigenic. A significant amount of this work is currently being conducted at the AFRRI under the direction of Dr. Alexandra Miller. She and her colleagues demonstrated for the first time that internalized DU oxides could result in a “significant enhancement of urinary mutagenicity,” that they can transform human cells into cells capable of producing cancerous tumors when implanted into mice with suppressed immune systems. They also found that DU was capable of inducing DNA damage in the absence of significant radioactive decay. Other experiments show that alpha particle radiation is causing the cancerous mutation followed by a buildup of damage from the heavy metal and/or radiation properties of uranium adding to the spread of the cancer.

That the authors should describe the RAND Corporation and the World Health Organization (WHO) as “independent” organizations is both surprising and incomprehensible. The RAND Corporation is an American think tank first formed to offer research and analysis to the U.S. military. The Centre for Media and Democracy has said, “Two-thirds of RAND's research involves national security issues. This is divided into Project Air Force, the Arroyo Centre (serving the needs of the Army), and the National Defense Research Institute (providing research and analysis for the Office of the Secretary of Defense).” Asking the RAND Corporation to study the health issues of DU oxide dust is akin to asking the CIA to investigate the torture of prisoners captured in the war against terrorism.

Also the WHO can hardly be described as an independent body on ionizing radiation and health issues. In the 1959 agreement signed between the IAEA and WHO, both parties recognized that the IAEA has the primary

\* Sixty-seven percent of Utah's 2.2 million residents live within five miles of likely transportation routes and sites for the deadly radioactive waste.

## Your Comments Urgently Needed

**The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is taking public comments regarding the environmental impact of a possible nuclear waste rail line to Skull Valley and its impact on national historic sites.**

**Comments are being taken until May 8, 2006.**

The subject of public comments is limited to addressing the “right-of-way applications filed by PFS for an independent irradiated fuel storage installation on reservation lands of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute.”

**See: <www.federalregister> (fr07fe06N; Notice of Request for Comments To Address Right-of-Way).**

Regulations require the BLM to consider a number of factors in deciding whether to grant or deny the railroad right-of-way: 1) Project consistency with BLM's management of public lands; 2) Public interest; 3) Applicant's qualification to hold a grant; 4) Project's consistency with Federal Land Policy and Management Act, other laws or regulations; 5) Applicants technical or financial capability and 6) Applicants compliance with information requests.

According to *Desert Morning News*, Utah's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation worked hard to identify how moving and storing nuclear waste in Utah would affect historical places. The Council found eight historic sites within the BLM property where PFS plans to build a railroad to move waste through Utah to Skull Valley. In a notice in the Federal Register Dec. 19, the Advisory Council asked for the public's input on what it should tell the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

On Jan. 6, George Bush signed into law the Fiscal Year 2007 Defense Authorization Bill, including a provision creating the Cedar Mountains Wilderness Area in Utah. This effectively blocks the preferred route for a 30-mile-long railway extension required by PFS to deliver commercial high-level radioactive wastes by train to the Skull Valley site.

The *Salt Lake Tribune* reported that Utah Republican Senator Orrin Hatch said the BLM's decision could conceivably derail PFS. Hatch told reporters Dec. 9, “I'm going to call on every Utah citizen who can write a letter to sit down and write a personal letter,” to the secretary of the Interior Department and the BLM, “explaining why this is a terrible approach towards nuclear waste.”

responsibility for encouraging, assisting and coordinating research on atomic energy throughout the world, without prejudice to the right of WHO to concern itself with promoting, developing, assisting and coordinating international health work, including research in all its aspects. This clearly suggests that the promotional bureau of nuclear energy (IAEA) considers itself to be the watchdog on information distributed to the public regarding the health effects of radiation, while the WHO contributes to medical care and public health assistance.

Superficial health studies by RAND and WHO help to perpetuate the myth, accepted by the PSR report's authors, that the health impacts of DU oxide dust are comparable to those of naturally occurring uranium. Dr. Keith Baverstock [of the UN Environment Program] and other scientists researching DU health impacts have previously observed that fine particles of DU oxide have no natural analogues.

## British Radiation Jump Blamed on DU

Some of the estimated 127 tons of so-called “depleted uranium” munitions used by the U.S. and Britain in the March 2003 “shock and awe” bombardment of Iraq seems to have boomeranged.

According to a study by Dr. Chris Busby, uranium oxides from the massive bombing were carried by wind currents to Britain.

The London *Sunday Times* reported Feb. 19 that testing stations at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) in Aldermaston and at four others were obtained by Busby, of Liverpool University's department of human anatomy and cell biology.

Each detector recorded a significant rise in uranium levels during the U.S. Air Force bombing. The uranium level recorded at a park in Reading was high enough for the Environment Agency to be alerted.

Busby, who has advised the government on radiation and is a founder of Green Audit, the environmental consultancy, believes “uranium aerosols” from Iraq were widely dispersed in the atmosphere and blown across Europe.

“This research shows that rather than remaining near the target as claimed by the military, depleted uranium weapons contaminate both locals and whole populations hundreds to thousands of miles away,” he said.

The British Ministry of Defense replied that it was “unfeasible” DU could have traveled so far. Government officials said the sharp rise in uranium detected by radiation monitors in Berkshire was a coincidence and probably came from local sources.

## Please write:

Bureau of Land Management  
Salt Lake Field Office  
2370 South 2300 West  
Salt Lake City, UT 84119  
Attn.: Pam Schuller (801) 977-4356  
Or email: <pam\_schuller@blm.gov>

## Nuclear reactor waste & PFS

Radioactive contamination of the environment increases every day as a result of the operation of commercial nuclear power reactors, military and university research reactors and shipboard propulsion reactors. The routine transport and accidental spillage and venting of radioactive wastes by industry, science and the military continue to add cumulatively to the amount of so-called background radiation.

The bio-accumulation of persistent cancer-causing radioactive elements from the nuclear fuel chain is an unregulated threat to human and environmental health, especially in conjunction with the health effects of exposure to thousands of toxic chemicals that are legally poured, sprayed or dumped into the soil, water and air.

Millions of gallons of liquid radioactive wastes and thousands of tons of used reactor fuel rods make up the most dangerous of high-level radiation threats created in the nuclear age.

The commercial nuclear industry has produced more than 60,000 tons of radioactive waste in the form of reactor fuel rods which is so radioactively “hot” that it must be remotely handled by machines and containerized to prevent killing its producers and handlers with large amounts of invisible, odorless gamma, beta, alpha or X radiation.

This waste is piling up in cooling pools at 103 operating reactors in the U.S., and in large outdoor canisters—called “dry casks.” In spite of the chances of catastrophic truck, barge and train accidents, the industry and its sponsors in Congress intend to move this nuclear waste to centralized storage or dump sites, one west and another east of the Mississippi River.

For more information on PFS and its plans to poison the Skull Valley Goshute territory with radioactive waste, See: *Shundahai Network, P.O. Box 1115, Salt Lake City, UT 84110; (801) 533-0128; Web: shundahai.org Email: shundahai@shundahai.org*

Therefore the inhalation of DU oxide dust particles, and the reaction caused by them, cannot be compared with natural uranium. In contrast with natural forms, DU oxide dust particles are highly concentrated, mainly insoluble and can be lodged in the lungs for many years. [Beyond ignoring this distinction] the WHO ignores the potential risk routes in addition to radiotoxicity by direct irradiation, namely, chemical genotoxicity, synergy between radiation and chemical toxicities and a bystander route. The evidence for these three routes is growing.

From an independent organization of physicians, we could have expected a more thorough, critical and up-to-date overview of scientific DU health studies. Unfortunately, this report did not meet with this particular reader's expectations.

—Henk van der Keur is the DU Project Coordinator of the Laka Foundation in Amsterdam. This critique first appeared in the Dec. 23, 2005 Nuclear Monitor.

During the bombing, the U.S. Air Force's A10 Thunderbolt or “warhog” warplanes—which fire 4,000 rounds per minute—fired at least 300,000 DU rounds.

Busby's report shows that within nine days of the start of the Iraq war on March 19, 2003, higher levels of uranium were picked up at five sites in Berkshire. The report says weather conditions over the war period showed a consistent flow of air from Iraq northwards.

**\$2,200 Apiece:**

## Alliant Wins \$38 Million DU Contract

EDINA, Minn.—United Press International reported Feb. 20 that the Army placed a \$38 million order with Alliant TechSystems (ATK) for additional 120-mm ammunition for the U.S. M1A1 and A2 Abrams, its main battle tanks. The follow-on contract extends the original contract for tank rounds and brings the total value of the shells ordered in fiscal year 2006 to \$77 million.

Once delivered, ATK will have sold 35,000 of the “M829-A3” rounds to the military. If the UPI's figures are accurate, the cost of the DU munitions comes to \$2,200 apiece!

ATK claims “the price is worth it,” because the shell gives the tanks “unmatched punch” and guarantees “battlefield supremacy.”

UPI said of the shells, “Based on a depleted-uranium penetrator, the West Virginia-produced round is billed as the most advanced armor-piercing kinetic-energy ordnance available.”

# Bush Push for Reactors and Reprocessing

By Bonnie Urfer

The Bush administration is aggressively pushing for new nuclear reactor construction in the U.S. and abroad. The agenda comes with plans to build a reprocessing facility to separate plutonium from the waste reactor fuel rods, often called "spent fuel."

The move would make the world more dangerous and reverses President Carter's 1977 ban on commercial reprocessing which was intended to prevent nuclear weapons proliferation. At home, at least 6 reactors are leaking radiation. All 103 U.S. reactors are aging and already pose an eminent danger for those who have been drinking contaminated water or milk or breathing radioactive air.

Used fuel from the core of nuclear reactors is deadly for more than 300,000 thousand years. Unshielded, it delivers a lethal dose in seconds. It is also the Achilles Heel of the nuclear power industry. The Department of Energy (DOE) is moving forward trying to license Yucca Mountain as a permanent repository for waste fuel rods but all available space is spoken for with the existing 77,000 tons of waste. The current Yucca Mountain budget request is for another \$99 million; \$9 billion has already been spent. A second permanent repository will be needed for any further commercial waste produced by existing or new reactors. The amount of waste produced through reprocessing ends up being far greater than the original amount of irradiated fuel. The reprocessed fuel becomes even more radioactive than the original irradiated fuel and presents even greater problems for existing reactors and disposal.

The U.S. government is expecting cooperation from around the world in its reprocessing plan, which it has dubbed Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP). GNEP envisions the U.S. and Russia constructing reactors around the world, leasing fuel to the owners then bringing the irradiated fuel rods home for reprocessing. Clay Sell, U.S. Under Secretary of Energy said, "It will allow us to increase U.S. and global energy security, encourage clean development around the world, while improving the environment and reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation."

Less than 20 pounds of plutonium is needed to make a nuclear bomb. Between 40,000 and 200,000 nuclear weapons could be produced using the 240 metric tons of plutonium now stored in various locations around the world. Reprocessing in the U.S. would increase this volume by more than 500 metric tons. Plutonium makes up about one percent of waste or "spent" fuel.

The Bush plan to mix neptunium or other isotopes with plutonium — making it harder to handle, steal or turn into bombs — does little to slow proliferation. "The tweaking of this process would only provide a minor additional deterrent," said Edwin Lyman, a nuclear specialist at the Union of Concerned Scientists and an expert on plutonium and nuclear fuel reprocessing.

Britain's reprocessing of foreign waste is failing due to slack orders and because of bad publicity from a major accident that closed its Sellafield facility. Russia is overwhelmed with the sheer volume of radioactive waste entering the country as it attempts

to reprocesses fuel from first-generation domestic and East European power reactors. The Russian facility is old, subsidized and has caused serious radioactive contamination. Germany's program stopped in the 1990s. North Korea got its plutonium from a supposedly commercial reprocessing program. Japan wants a reprocessing facility but the "not-in-my-backyard" opposition is keeping the plan at bay. China is designing a pilot-scale reprocessing facility. India possesses nuclear weapons and Bush just agreed to sell nuclear reactors and fuel to New Delhi although it has refused to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Existing reprocessing sites are environmental catastrophes, with massive releases of radioactivity to air, land and water, worker radiation exposures and liquid wastes that are harder to handle than the solid waste the process began with. In Europe, radioactive liquid waste from reprocessing is discharged to the sea. France and Britain have contaminated seafood all the way to the Arctic. Neither country considers these discharges illegal because it travels a pipeline into the sea. If the waste were packaged in drums and thrown overboard from a ship, it would be illegal under international law. Pentagon and DOE history shows us what we can expect with any future government facility. Reprocessing in the U.S. has permanently poisoned vast underground water systems — about 200 square miles in the case of the Hanford, Washington nuclear weapons factory which has contaminated the Columbia River. The Savannah River in South Carolina is contaminated by reprocessing at the Savannah River Site. At both facilities, millions of gallons of high-level liquid reprocessing

waste is stored in corroded, leaking tanks. Clean up has cost \$60 billion and may reach \$240 billion. The West Valley Demonstration Project, operated by Gulf Oil from 1966 to 1972, was the only for-profit reprocessing facility to operate in the U.S. The environmental disaster is being managed at taxpayer expense and the clean up is still ongoing after 30 years.

This year Congress funded reprocessing research to the tune of \$80 million — \$10 million above the White House request. The current appropriations bill provides \$50 million for a

competition among communities to host the new reprocessing machinery. Twenty million would be given to four individual sites, at \$5 million each, to demonstrate they can get over regulatory, legal and legislative hurdles to host reprocessing. The remaining \$30 million would be used for research.

Electric power produced by reprocessed nuclear fuel (MOX fuel) is, per kilowatt, the most expensive. France pays about \$1 billion extra per year for plutonium reactor fuel. It is two to three times more costly than uranium fuel and provides only 10% of France's electric power.

Reprocessing is nothing more than a favor to the nuclear industry according to Arjun Makhijani, President of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, "Reprocessing takes the pressure off of the nuclear utilities who are sick of having all this toxic, irradiated fuel building up at reactor sites. It would temporarily reduce the need for the expensive, problem-plagued Yucca Mountain high-level nuclear waste repository in Nevada. Most importantly, it would open the door to the nuclear industry's top priority: more nukes."



Department of Energy Photo

Barrels of radioactive materials stored at Hanford in eastern Washington.